



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS TRENTON (LPD-14) ✓
FPO NEW YORK 09588-1716

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From: Commanding Officer, USS TRENTON (LPD-14)
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09BH), Washington Naval Yard,
Washington, D.C. 20374-0571

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY OF USS TRENTON (LPD-14) FOR CY 1987

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12D
(b) Deputy Director of Naval History ltr 5757 Ser SH/3334 of 5 Aug 88

Encl: (1) Commanding Officers Biography
(2) Chronology of Events

1. The following is forwarded in accordance with references (a) and (b).

2. Command Composition and Organization.

a. Mission: To provide fast transport of ground combat troops and their equipment and to rapidly land them ashore by air or surface assault.

b. Organizational Structure. Assigned to COMPHIBRON TWELVE. No additional units assigned to operational/administrative control.

c. Commander. Captain Robert J. Reader, USN (biography attached as enclosure (1)).

d. Permanent Duty Station: Norfolk, Virginia.

e. Type/Number of Aircraft Assigned: None.

3. Chronology. Attached as enclosure (2).

4. Narrative. The year 1987 was highlighted by short-notice participation in exercise SOLID SHIELD in April when the designated LPD was dropped due to material problems. The port visit to Baltimore in June was highly popular with the crew and a tremendous success by all accounts. In September the TRENTON sailed for Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to conduct refresher training and prepare for an Operational Propulsion Plant Examination (OPPE). Refresher training emphasized main space engineering and casualty control and proved extremely valuable to OPPE preparation. Except for one hurricane evasion sortie that kept the ship just west of Jamaica for several days, the Guantanamo Bay visit was uneventful. TRENTON departed Cuba on 09 October with the Propulsion Examining Board on board. The ship passed the examination and was scheduled to spend the Columbus Day weekend in Miami, Florida, but, again, a hurricane heading northeast from the Gulf of Mexico forced TRENTON to remain east of the Bahamas, cancelling the Miami visit.

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Following an upkeep period the ship participated in Amphibious Warfare Training Week in early November. Training was conducted in Onslow Bay off the North Carolina coast and emphasized the underway launch of Amphibious Assault Vehicles (AAV's). TRENTON did not embark any AAV's but instead acted as a control ship for the launches. For her contribution TRENTON was designated the "Top Gator" for the week by COMPHIBRON EIGHT, the Officer Conducting the Exercise (OCE). Upon completion of training, TRENTON entered a holiday leave and upkeep period in preparation for underway workups scheduled for January. TRENTON successfully completed a COMNAVSURFLANT 3-M Inspection in early December.



R. M. NUIWELL

CHRONOLOGY

01 Jan - 26 Mar	Phased Maintenance Availability, Moon Engineering, Norfolk, Va.
30 Mar - 03 Apr	Ammunition Onload, Yorktown Naval Weapons Station, Yorktown, Va.
25 Apr - 07 May	SOLID SHIELD Exercise with HM-14 embarked
23 Jun - 30 Jun	Port Visit, Baltimore, Md
08 Jul - 15 Jul	Amphibious Refresher Training
20 Jul - 10 Aug	Operations with AV-8 aircraft, Little Creek, Va.
27 Jul - 05 Aug	Embark COMPHIBRON TWO
07 Aug - 15 Aug	Embark COMPHIBRON EIGHT
10 Sep - 14 Oct	Refresher Training, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba
09 Oct - 11 Oct	Operational Propulsion Plant Examination (OPPE)
15 Oct - 15 Oct	Embark COMPHIBRON EIGHT
19 Oct - 15 Nov	Embark COMPHIBRON TWELVE
30 Nov - 03 Dec	Amphibious Warfare Training Week
03 Dec - 10 Dec	Embark COMPHIBRON EIGHT
08 Dec - 10 Dec	COMNAVSURFLANT 3-M Inspection

CAPTAIN
ROBERT JAMES READER
UNITED STATES NAVY

Captain Robert J. Reader was born in (b) (6) on March 14, 1938. Following his graduation from the University of Illinois in 1961, he attended Officer Candidate School and joined USS PASSUMPSIC (AO-107). Subsequently he served as Executive Officer, USS ACME (MSO-508), attended the Surface Warfare School Department Head Course, and was assigned to USS KENNETH D. BAILEY (DDR-713).

In July 1967 he reported to the staff of Commander Destroyer Squadron SIXTEEN which was then deployed to Southeast Asia. He then served as Assistant Professor of Naval Science at Iowa State University from July 1969 to August 1971, followed by attendance at the Naval War College Command and Staff course. During this period he received a Masters Degree in International Affairs from George Washington University.

In July 1972 he became Flag Secretary to Commander Amphibious Group ONE. This assignment was followed by tours as Executive Officer, Navy Recruiting District Detroit from July 1973 to July 1975 and Executive Officer, USS HARLAN COUNTY (LST-1196), from September 1975 to March 1977.

From April 1977 to May 1979 he served as Flag Secretary to Commander in Chief U.S. Atlantic Fleet. Captain Reader then commanded USS SUMTER (LST-1181) until July 1981. From July 1981 through July 1984 he served as Operations Officer for COMSTRIKFLTANT and as Amphibious Operations Officer for Commander SECOND Fleet. Captain Reader then attended the Naval War College, Naval Warfare Course and reported to the OPNAV Staff as the Amphibious/EOD/IUW Branch Head (OP-372). He assumed command of USS TRENTON on 24 February 1986.

Captain Reader is married to the former (b) (6) of Naperville, Illinois. They have three children: (b) (6)

His decorations include: The Meritorious Service Medal with Gold Star in lieu of second award. Joint Service Commendation Medal and Navy Commendation Medal with Gold Star in lieu of third award.